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Today in World Affairs

U. S. Warned to Counter Red Propaganda Abroad

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—It's a good thing for Congressmen and Senators to go abroad to get the feel of the "cold war." For it opens the eyes of the officials in our own government to the "battle for people's minds" which, in some respects, is more important than all the bombs and missiles.



Lawrence

Representative Hale Boggs, a Democrat, who is chairman of a subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee studying foreign trade matters, has just come back from a lengthy tour abroad, and he is very much impressed by the strength of the Communist propaganda. He said to this correspondent:

"I went to the world-trade organization meeting at Tokyo and then to the underdeveloped countries, taking a look at what we might do to encourage private investment in these areas. But when you get into these things, you get into a lot of other matters. In India, for instance, those people are flooded with slick propaganda not only from Russia and Red China but from each one of the Communist satellite countries.

"It's very clever stuff—it's all about how these nations have made the 'great leap forward' without being exploited by the Communists, and so on. At the same time our people tell me that we've got \$130,000,000 in counterpart funds tied up that can't be used for counter-information purposes. I am going to look into this."

"Big Impact in India"

"The impact in India of the Communist propaganda is so big because the Communists are doing a tremendous job there. In other countries, too, they apparently are spending as much time and effort and money.

"I went to Baghdad—I believe I was the first member of our Congress to go there since the overthrow of the previous government in Iraq. The Communists are doing a fantastic job there, but the real job is done by internal subversion rather than by propaganda from the outside. They've got almost complete control of the local press, for instance, and it's violently anti-American. The United States Information Agency office in Baghdad was seized by the Khrushchev government when they took power.

"The propaganda line in these countries is something. In every one of these slick-paper publications—whether published in Russia, China, North Vietnam, or North Korea, or in any one of the Eastern European satellite countries—they had inserted in English a copy of Khrushchev's speech as he preached Moscow on his return from the United States and also a copy of his last speech over television before leaving the United States. The number of copies of this thing distributed must have been astronomical to go through all the countries.

that he's the fellow who is calming down the 'warmongers' in the capitalist countries. Also the readers are told not to worry about the Red Chinese—Khrushchev is supposed to be taking care of them, too. That's an interesting propaganda line in India. As for the idea that there is some grave defection between Red China and Russia—I think that's the biggest piece of deceptive propaganda of all."

Still Bent on Conquest

The views expressed by Rep. Boggs may come as a surprise to those Americans who pooh-pooh the Communist menace and who seem to think that the Khrushchev trip to the United States has lessened the intensity of the "cold war" tactics of the Communists. On the contrary, there is every evidence from observing the Soviet propaganda that the Communist idea of world conquest has by no means been dropped and that internal subversion is expected to attain Communist goals.

American propaganda is relatively small in amount. It is limited by Congressional funds and is by no means as extensive as is generally believed in this country. Propaganda costs big money, and the Soviet government regards it to be of such importance that it is willing to hold down the standard of living of the Soviet people in order that billions of rubles may be